

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

KENNETH FRASER, M.O.H.



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Presented to the District Council

6th June, 1944

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health.—KENNETH FRASER (part time). Salary £100
Sanitary Inspector.—A. W. CHARITY (part time). Salary £230

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area in Acres	1,617
Population—Census 1931	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1941	8,540
Number of Inhabited Houses:—	
(a) Census 1931	1,682
(b) End of 1941 according to Rate Books	2,593
Rateable Value	£32,983
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£127

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	140 ..	76 ..	64	
		Illegitimate ..	..	6 ..	4 ..	2	
					<hr/>		
Total		..	..	..	146 ..	80 ..	66

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1941 .. 17·0

		<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births (legitimate) ..	5 ..	4 ..	1	
Deaths	86 ..	45 ..	41	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..		..	33
Death-rate per 1,000, estimated population ..		..	10·0

There were no deaths due to maternal causes, or Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	81
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	85
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	<i>Total.</i>
Scarlet Fever	6
Whooping Cough	33
Diphtheria	4
Erysipelas	2
Measles	33
Pneumonia	10
Typhoid Fever	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1
	<hr/>
	90
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	1	3	1	—	—	1	—
5-10	..	..	..	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards	..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	6	3	9	4	1	2	1	1
				9		13		3		2	

<i>Population :—</i>	<i>Per 1,000 of estimated Population.</i>					<i>Maternal Mortality Rate.</i>		
	<i>Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.</i>				<i>Death rate from Cancer.</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Rate of 1,000 deaths under one year per 1,000 Live births.</i>	
<i>Estimate 1941 :</i>	<i>Live Birth-rate.</i>	<i>Crude Death-rate.</i>	<i>Respiratory.</i>	<i>Death rate from Tuberculosis.</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Total Live births.</i>	<i>Rate of 1,000 deaths under one year per 1,000 Live births.</i>	
(a) for Birth-rates 8,540.	16.4	12.1	0.33	1.20	6.45	6.15	61	
(b) for Death-rates 8,540.	16.1	13.7	0.46	1.17	Nil	Nil	64	
Year 1941 ..	17.0	10.0	0.35	1.28	Nil	Nil	81	
Mean of five years 1936-40	16.4	12.1	0.33	1.20	6.45	6.15	61	
Year 1940 ..	16.1	13.7	0.46	1.17	Nil	Nil	64	
Year 1941 ..	17.0	10.0	0.35	1.28	Nil	Nil	81	
Increase or decrease in 1941 on five years' aver. 1936-40	+0.6	—2.1	+0.02	+0.08	—6.45	—6.15	+17	
Previous year	+0.9	—3.7	—0.11	+0.11	Nil	Nil	+17	

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ORRELL ROAD,

1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Thirty-third Annual Report of the health and the sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1941. Population (Census 1931, 6,949) ; estimated population 1941, 8,540.

BIRTHS.—There were 146 live births, 80 males and 66 females, as compared with 138 in 1940, rate 17·0 per 1,000. Six of these were illegitimate ; 1940, 1. The mean average birth rate for the past ten years was 15·34. There were 5 still births ; 1940, 6. The births exceeded the deaths by 60 ; 1940, 21. The mean average number of births over deaths for the past ten years was 28.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered from all causes belonging to the district was 86, 45 males and 41 females ; 1940, 117 ; rate 10·0 per 1,000. Inquiries were held on four deaths, 1 male and 3 females, one of which was a road traffic accident. Twenty-three deaths occurred in institutions. The deaths were distributed equally in each Ward. The mean average death-rate for the past ten years was 11·96.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 12 infant deaths registered, 6 males and 6 females ; 1940, 10 ; rate per 1,000 live births 81, 1940, 64. The average for the past ten years was 60, and the percentage to the total deaths 13·9 ; 1940, 8·5. They occurred 8 in the East Ward and 4 in the West Ward. Seven of the children lived under one week, 2 of these under two hours. Four were 1st born, 6 2nd born, 1 4th born, and 1 6th born. The causes of death were : 5 Premature Birth, 3 Congenital Defects, 1 Weakness at Birth, 2 Debility from Birth, and 1 Broncho Pneumonia. In 9 cases the parents were sole occupants of the home, and 3 of the children died in institutions.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
England and Wales	59	55	50	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	71	61	53	57
148 Smaller Towns (resident popula- tion 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	56	54	40	51
London Administrative County ..	68	50	48	57

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	Mean.
Under 1 year ..	12	10	12	7	9	8	9.6
1 and under 2 years..	2	1	1	—	2	1	1.1
2 to 5 years ..	1	3	1	1	1	2	1.5
5 to 15 years ..	2	2	3	—	2	1	1.6
15 to 25 years ..	5	2	1	—	5	4	2.8
25 to 45 years ..	5	11	13	11	8	12	10.0
45 to 65 years ..	19	31	14	25	33	21	23.8
65 and upwards ..	40	57	63	38	55	41	49.0
	86	117	108	82	115	90	99.4

There were 17 deaths of people under 15 years of age ; 1940, 16 ; over 60 years of age, 41 ; 1940, 67 ; between 70 and 80 years of age, 18 ; 1940, 32 ; between 80 and 90 years of age, 11 ; 1940, 7 ; one of the latter group reached the age of 86 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY FROM PREMATURE BIRTHS AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	<i>England and Wales</i> 1925.
Premature Births ..	41.6%	20%	41.6%	14.2%	22.2%	18.63%
Congenital Defects ..	25%	30%	16.6%	33.3 %	33.3%	5.20%

VARIOUS AGES AT WHICH INFANTS DEATHS OCCURRED.

		1941.		1940.		1939.		1938.		1937.
Under 1 week	..	7	..	2	..	7	..	3	..	2
„ 3 weeks	..	—	..	2	..	1	..	—	..	—
„ 1 month	..	7	..	4	..	8	..	3	..	2
1 to 3 months	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	2	..	3
3 to 6 „	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	—	..	1
6 to 9 „	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	—
9 to 12 „	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	3
		12	..	10	..	12	..	7	..	9

AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS ACCORDING TO THE POSITION OF THE
CHILD IN THE FAMILY.

<i>Position of Child in the Family.</i>		<i>Weeks.</i>			<i>Months.</i>		
		1		1	4	5	6
First born	..	2	..	—	1	—	1
Second born	..	4	..	1	—	1	—
Fourth born	..	1	..	—	—	—	—
Sixth born	..	—	..	1	—	—	—

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There was one death registered from this group of diseases, i.e., Diphtheria.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>		1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.
Scarlet Fever	.. ..	6	29	33	27	8
Whooping Cough	.. ..	33	12	8	—	—
Diphtheria	.. ..	4	20	29	13	36
Erysipelas	.. ..	2	1	3	4	3
Measles	.. ..	33	199	—	—	—
Pneumonia	.. ..	10	23	7	15	13
Typhoid Fever	.. ..	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.		1	1	—	—	—
		90	285	80	59	60

They were distributed in the Wards as follows :—

<i>Disease.</i>					<i>East Ward.</i>	<i>West Ward.</i>
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	3
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	16	17
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	2
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	27	6
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	4
Typhoid Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	1

PUBLIC HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis : Nine new cases were reported (2 of which were not confirmed), 6 males and 3 females, occurring 5 in the East Ward, and 4 in the West Ward. Two of the cases were evacuees. Institutional treatment was provided for 6 of these cases. There were 3 deaths registered, 1 male and 2 females ; rate 0·35 per 1,000 ; 1940, 0·46. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 19, 10 males and 9 females, giving a case incidence of 2·2 per 1,000 ; 1940, 1·8.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis : The new cases reported were the same number as last year, 13, 9 males and 4 females, occurring 10 in the East Ward, and 3 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 2 to 37 years ; 61 per cent. were 11 years and under. Eight cases were treated in hospital. There were 2 deaths registered, 1 male and 1 female ; rate 0·23 per 1,000, same as 1940. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 36, 21 males and 15 females ; case incidence, 4·2 per 1,000 ; 1940, 4·2. The case incidence for all cases of Tuberculosis was 6·44 per 1,000 ; 1940, 6·003.

Respiratory Diseases other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 6 deaths ; 1940, 20 ; Bronchitis 2, Pneumonia 3, and the other Respiratory Diseases 1 ; death-rate 0·702 per 1,000 ; 1940, 2·3 ; percentage to total deaths, 6·9 ; 1940, 17·09. Pneumonia accounted for 11 notifications, 5 males and 6 females, occurring 6 in the East Ward and 5 in the West Ward. Seven of the notifications were received in the first quarter of the year. Their ages ranged from 9 months to 62 years. Incidence of Pneumonia in Orrell per 1,000 of the population was 1·28 ; England and Wales, 1·25.

Age Groups of Infectious Notifiable Diseases were as follows :—

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Enteric Fever.
Under 12 months ..	—	..	—	..	1	..	—
1-2 years ..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
2-3 „ ..	—	..	—	..	1	..	—
3-4 „ ..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
4-5 „ ..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
5-10 „ ..	5	..	2	..	1	..	—
10-15 „ ..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
15-20 „ ..	1	..	2	..	—	..	—
20-25 „ ..	—	..	—	..	1	..	—
25-35 „ ..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
35-45 „ ..	—	..	—	..	3	..	—
45-65 „ ..	—	..	—	..	4	..	—
65 and upwards ..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
	6	..	4	..	11	..	2
						33	..
						33	..
							1

Scarlet Fever.—There were six cases of Scarlet Fever notified; 1940, 29. They were distributed 3 in each Ward. All but one case occurred among children of school-going age. Case incidence 0.702 per 1,000; 1940, 3.39; England and Wales 1.47.

Erysipelas.—Two cases were reported, occurring one in each Ward. Case incidence 0.23 per 1,000; 1940, 0.11; England and Wales, 0.32.

Whooping Cough.—Thirty-three cases were notified, 14 males and 19 females, occurring 17 in the East Ward, and 16 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 6 months to 7 years. Five of the cases were of school-going age. In 6 different homes 2 inmates were affected. Case incidence 3.86 per 1,000; 1940, 1.64; England and Wales, 4.39.

Measles.—There were 33 cases of Measles notified, 15 males and 18 females. They occurred, 27 in the East Ward and 6 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 6 months to 33 years; 20 cases were of children of school-going age. Eleven cases were notified in the first half-year, and 15 in the month of July. There were 2 cases notified from one household. Case incidence 3.86; England and Wales, 10.33.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.—There was 1 case notified, a male 49 years, occurring in the West Ward. Case incidence 0·11 ; England and Wales, 0·25.

Enteric Fever.—One case was notified, a male 16 years, from the East Ward. Case incidence 0·11 ; England and Wales, 0·03.

Diphtheria.—Notifications numbered 4 ; 1940, 20 ; 2 of each sex. They occurred 2 in either Ward. One case contracted the trouble outside the area and was transported into the district. Their ages ranged from 5 to 16 years. Two of the cases were of school-going age. Case incidence, 0·46 per 1,000 ; 1940, 2·35 ; England and Wales, 1·25. There was 1 death, aged 5. Death-rate 0·11 per 1,000 ; England and Wales, 0·07.

Cancer and Malignant Diseases.—There were 11 deaths registered, 7 males and 4 females ; rate 1·28 per 1,000 ; 1940, 1·17 ; percentage to total deaths, 12·79 ; 1940, 8·5. They occurred 5 in the East Ward, and 6 in the West Ward. Three of the deaths were of people over 65 years of age, one living to 82 years. Parts affected : 3 Stomach, 1 Breast, 2 Buccal Cavity, other sites 5. There were no deaths from cancer of the Uterus.

Hospital Accommodation : There is no hospital situated within the area, but the district was well served by general and specialised hospitals. Infectious and Maternity Cases received prompt attention ; 41 per cent. of the Maternity cases occurred in Institutions. Ambulance service was satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.—The district was supplied with water from a reservoir at Bispham under contract with the County Borough of Wigan. The supply was continuous and the quality good. No supplementary supply was available from the neighbouring townships. Shortage was experienced on days when there was greatest demand on the supply. Three miles of larger mains were laid. Sanction has now been granted to go ahead with the proposed new source of supply.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No action was taken during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The sewerage was conveyed in underground stoneware pipes, and delivered, by one outlet, by gravitation, into the main sewer of the Wigan Corporation, and treated at Hoscarr. Choked sewer in Moor Road was dealt with satisfactorily. Periodical flushing of the sewers and cleansing of settling tanks were carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Forty-three privy middens serve a few isolated houses and houses considered for demolition ; 69 closets are attached to these middens. The number of houses on the water carriage system was the same as 1940, 2,520 ; number of fresh water closets, 2,609. There were no conversions during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The work of this department was carried out under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, by the Council's workmen. The refuse was collected by day by motor, and deposited at the Council's tip. Some of the refuse was employed to reclaim land.

Salvage of paper, rags, bones, and scrap metal, etc., has made satisfactory progress. Monthly reports were submitted.

SCHOOLS.—Sanitary conditions were satisfactory. Mumps was prevalent in one school during the month of June. No closure for infectious diseases was required.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There were no trades under this group nor any premises under the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

SHOPS ACTS, 1934.—The regulations were carried out satisfactorily.

RATS.—Requests for rat bait was maintained with satisfactory results.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.—There were 32 workshops on the register. Inspections were made periodically and the regulations were carried out satisfactorily. One factory, a cotton spinning mill, was closed down.

HOUSING STATISTICS.—The density of the population per acre was 5·2 persons. All the houses, chiefly working-class houses, were occupied. Overcrowding was not serious. The distribution of the population according to the number of the houses was 3·2 persons per house. A scheme for the erection of 24 bungalows for housing aged persons had to be deferred. There were no new houses erected. Owing to the severe winter numerous burst pipes, defective gutters and downspouts, and defective roofs were reported. Repairs were delayed due to shortage of labour and materials.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—The cows were housed in small shippens ; 30 were employed to house about 160 cows. There were 17 dairy farms and 29 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers). Some of the fresh milk consumed in the township was imported, but most of the supply was produced locally, and delivered

promptly. Routine cleanliness in milking and toilet of the cows call for greater attention. Lime-washing of the shippens was delayed in some instances. One cow-keeper was licensed to produce (and bottle) "Accredited" milk. Samples of fresh milk were taken at the request of the County Council, and were found satisfactory biologically. The dairies, cowsheds and milk shops were inspected quarterly, 51 visits being paid.

MEAT INSPECTION ACTS.—During inspections 65 lbs. of meat killed under permits of the Food Office were surrendered as unfit.

OTHER FOODS.—During the year 65 large tins of prepared milk were condemned.

WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES.

Factory employing over 40 persons.

Cotton Spinning Mill (closed down in the month of June)	1
---	---

FACTORIES WITH MECHANICAL POWER.

Bakeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ice Cream Factory	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Boot Repairer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Motor Repair Shop	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Joiner and Builder	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

WORKSHOPS (MANUAL).

Dressmakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Blacksmiths..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Boot and Clog Maker	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Flagger and Slater	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Painter and Plumber	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Wheelwright	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cycle Repair Shop	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1941.

Blocked or Defective W.C.'s	20
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse ..	6
Blocked Sewers	7
Blocked and Defective Drains	28
Defective Houses	4
Defective Spouts	14
Houses Disinfected	62
Eradication of Bed Bugs	3
Rats in Houses (number of houses)	6
Accumulation of Manure	1
Animals Kept so as to be a Nuisance	3
Defective Footpaths	2
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing) numbered ..	174
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered	77
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated	77
Requiring 72 informal and 5 statutory notices.	

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	1940.	1941.
Number of ashpits emptied during the year ..	230 ..	219
„ dustbins emptied during the year	118,923 ..	102,956
„ loads removed during the year ..	1,446 ..	1,240
„ privy closets	69 ..	69
„ privy ashpits	43 ..	43
„ dry ashpits	6 ..	6
„ dustbins	2,555 ..	2,556
„ fresh-water closets	2,609 ..	2,609

THE CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT is a new source of Water Supply.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

